

Towards the close of the battle, Bonaparte seeing all his attempts to break through the British line defeated, ordered a strong column of the middle Guard, led on by Ney, to advance and charge the British centre. They were preceded by cavalry, who wheeled off to the right and left upon gaining the crest of the hill, leaving the Imperial Guards opposed to General Maitland's brigade of the 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 1st Foot Guards, now wheeled up from square into a line of four deep. Another column of the French infantry threatened, at this moment, the right flank of the Guards, but General Adam's brigade, coming rapidly up, took this corps in flank, and opening their fire, drove them down the hill. The Guards then advanced upon the Imperial Grenadiers, and giving them a steady, well-directed volley, charged them with such impetuosity, that they fled in the greatest confusion.* The British cavalry now coming up, the Life Guards, with the Marquis of Anglesea at their head, and Captain (now Major) Kelly, charged the Cuirassiers, who, notwithstanding their armour, were completely overturned and trampled down by

* About this period the Prussians, under Bulow, had come up near Planchenoit, and are seen, in the distance, beginning to skirmish with the light troops of the French right wing.